number of Jews reaching a total of 13-2 millions in 1914, since when the growth has slowed down, both in relative and in absolute figures. In spite of the higher aggregate number of the Jews, their natural increase for the eighteen years 1915-1932 is only equal to that for the fourteen years 1901-1914, namely, 2,700,000, so that their total number amounted to nearly 16 millions at the end of 1933.

In rough outlines the change in the natural increase of the Jews since the seventeenth century appears as follows, the figures giving the average yearly rate per thousand:

Period.	Approximate Birth-Rate.	Approximate Death-Bate.	Approximate Natural In-crease.
1650-1750	45	40	5
1750-1800	40	30	10
1800-1850	40	25	15
1850-1900	35	20	15
1901-1905	33	15	18
1906-1910	32	15	17
1911-1914	30	14	16
1921-1925	24	13	11
1926-1930	21	12	9
1932 .	18	10	8

'It must, however, be remembered that these totals apply to world-Jewry. During the last one hundred years, both the birth-rate and the death-rate were lower in Western and Central than in Eastern Europe; but as the main body of Jewry inhabited Eastern Europe, it was they who had the determining influence on the aggregate figures. The rapid decline in the birthrate, which marks a break with

the traditional fertility maintained through the ages, is the most striking feature of Jewish vital statistics at the present time. While the curve marking the growth of the Jewish population ascended till 1905, a decline set m during the next qtunquennium., and by 1930 the natural increase had fallen from 18 to 8 per thousand. The advance of 150 years was lost in 25 years.